

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

In the Matter of Xcel Energy's Application
to the Minnesota Environmental Quality
Board for a Route Permit for a 345 kV
Transmission Line from the Split Rock
Substation to Lakefield Junction
Substation, a 115 kV Transmission Line
from Nobles County Substation to
Chanarambie Substation and the Nobles
County Substation

ORDER GRANTING
INTERVENTION

On February 10, 2005, a Petition to Intervene was filed by the Rural Minnesota Energy Board. The Board sent a copy to Xcel Energy, the only other formal party to the case.

On February 18, 2005, Xcel Energy notified the Administrative Law Judge that it had no objection to the intervention.

Having reviewed the Petition in light of the standards contained in Minn. R. pt. 1405.0900, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following:

ORDER

That the Petition of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board be GRANTED and the Board be admitted as a full party.

Dated this 23rd day of February 2005.

/s/ Allan W. Klein

ALLAN W. KLEIN

Administrative Law Judge